

SECRET
Department of State

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

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TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION IMMEDIATE
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INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

SECRET STATE 092234

ROGER CHANNEL
E.O. 12958: DECL: OADR
TAGS: FA, BI, LS, AP, CI, OTEA, PIER, SHIM
SUBJECT: THE SEARCH FOR JOSEF MENGELE

FOR AMEMBASSY

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT

2. THE USG HAS DECIDED TO MOUNT A MAJOR EFFORT, DRAWING ON ALL AVAILABLE INTELLIGENCE RESOURCES, TO LOCATE NAZI WAR CRIMINAL JOSEF MENGELE -- IF HE IS STILL ALIVE -- AND ENDEAVOR TO HAVE HIM BROUGHT TO TRIAL, MOST LIKELY IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IS UNDERTAKING A TWO TRACK APPROACH INVOLVING PARALLEL INITIATIVES CARRIED OUT BY THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS (OSI) AND THE U.S. MARSHALS' SERVICE.

3. OSI IS CURRENTLY ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE A LARGE NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO MENGELE IN ORDER TO COMPILE A COMPREHENSIVE ARCHIVE OF WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT HIM. STATE AND OTHER USG AGENCIES ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THIS EFFORT, AS ARE WEST GERMANY AND ISRAEL. IN THE NEAR FUTURE

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OSI WILL MEET WITH SPANISH A.E.P. TO MEET WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS AT APPROPRIATE POINTS TO DISCUSS THE MENGELE MATTER AND SECURE THEIR COOPERATION.

4. IN CONTRAST TO OSI'S EFFORT, THE US MARSHALS' SERVICE HAS BEEN TASKED BY JUSTICE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF OTHER AGENCIES, A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO GATHER BY OVERT AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE MEANS NEW INTELLIGENCE NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY AND LOCATE MENGELE. EVIDENCE TO DATE SUGGESTS THEY HAVE FOUND A GOOD PART OF THEIR INITIAL EFFORT IN SOUTH AMERICA. THE SERVICE BELIEVES IT SHOULD INITIATE ITS SOUTH AMERICAN SEARCH IN PARAGUAY, BASED ON DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE PROVIDED BY A WEST GERMAN SERVICE, BY THE SIMON WIESENTHAL ORGANIZATION AND OTHER SOURCES, INCLUDING FIVE INDEPENDENT REPORTS OF SIGHTINGS OF MENGELE IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF ENCARNACION AS RECENTLY AS AS MONTHS AGO. SIMULTANEOUSLY THE MARSHALS' SERVICE WILL ALSO PURSUE OTHER POSSIBLE LEADS SUCH AS MENGELE'S FAMILY, THE FAMILY BUSINESS, ETC.

5. MENGELE HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE REVENED PUBLIC ATTENTION INCLUDING LIVELY MEDIA INTEREST AND CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION. THIS HAS LED TO AN INCREASED PARAGUAY TO GOOD FAITH EFFORTS BY THE GOV TO SOLVE THE

MENGELE MYSTERY. REWARDS HAVE BEEN OFFERED BY THE GERMAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (DM ONE MILLION), THE WIESENTHAL ORGANIZATION (11 ONE MILLION), AND AT LEAST ONE PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL (US\$ 200K). WHILE PUBLICITY SPURRED THE INITIAL SEARCH FOR MENGELE, IT MAY BECOME A HINDRANCE TO A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION TO LOCATE MENGELE. IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT IF MENGELE INDEED IS STILL ALIVE, AND IF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SIGHTINGS OF HIM NEAR ENCARNACION ARE ACCURATE, HE MUST BE NOW FULLY AWARE OF THE REVIVED INTEREST IN FINDING HIM AND MAY HAVE SLIPPED OUT OF PARAGUAY TO ANOTHER COUNTRY SUCH AS BOLIVIA, ARGENTINA, CHILE OR BRAZIL IN ORDER TO EVADE THE SEARCH FOR HIM.

6. THE MARSHALS' SERVICE BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW UP ON THE INFORMATION THEY HAVE OBTAINED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HOWARD SATIN, THE US MARSHAL IN CHARGE OF THE MENGELE OPERATION, PLANS TO VISIT AT LEAST THE ACTION ADDRESSEES OF THIS MESSAGE IN APRIL. HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS WITH AMBASSADORS AND COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEW AND COORDINATE STRATEGY. WE WILL KEEP YOU APPRIEZED OF SPECIFIC TRAVEL PLANS AS THEY DEVELOP.

7. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS VIA THIS CHANNEL

CONCERNING HOW BEST TO EMPLOY THE RESOURCES OF YOUR MISSION, INCLUDING SIRO, IN THE EFFORT TO LOCATE MENGELE. SIRO HEADQUARTERS, VIA ITS CHANNEL, IS PROVIDING INSTRUCTIONS TO STATIONS CONCERNED.

8. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WOULD ALSO LIKE YOUR IN-HOUSE APPRAISAL OF WHETHER, WHEN AND HOW TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE SEARCH FOR MENGELE, KEEPING IN MIND THAT SOME ELEMENTS MAY BE LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC IN AIDING THE SEARCH OR MIGHT EVEN SEEK TO OBSTRUCT IT. NO, REPEAT NO, DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE INITIATED WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT THIS TIME, THOUGH YOUR STAFFS SHOULD BE ALERT TO ANY INFORMATION THAT MAY COME THEIR WAY. ENCL 2

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2008

FOR COORDINATION WITH *State*

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